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THE COMIC READER

Number 102

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December 1973

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The COMIC READER

December 1973
Volume I, Number 102

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The paper shortage, with its already drastic effect upon the newspaper industry, has finally hit the comics. Fortunately, this shortage has presumably only affected the cover stock supply, at least in the case of the companies utilizing the World Color facilities in Sparta, Illinois. This shortage has hit Charlton hard, however, and its result is explained further on.

National News

The trend at National, forseen here as early as last July, is an increase in the number of 100 Page Super-Spectaculars published each month. Currently, the Super-Specs rotate between a number of titles and BATMAN, DETECTIVE COMICS, YOUNG LOVE and YOUNG ROMANCE, which are published 100 pages, bi-monthly. Beginning with the January releases (books with April or April-May cover dates) the number will be increased to seven per month, with the following titles going to a bi-monthly, 100 Page schedule: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, SHAZAM!, TARZAN, HOUSE OF MYSTERY and THE UNEXPECTED. In addition, the JIMMY OLSEN, LOIS LANE and SUPERGIRL titles are being combined into one bi-monthly, 100 page book entitled THE SUPERMAN FAMILY.

The cover price on these books, previously held to 50¢ because of the price freeze, will be increased to 60¢, due to the recent rise in cost of paper, printing, etc., putting the 100 pagers at the same price as three 20¢ books. All Super-Specs will contain at least 20 to 40 pages of new material, with an increase in page count dependent upon future sales reports. The rest of the books will be made up of special reprints, some of which will be: Justice Society of America stories from ALL STAR COMICS and Seven Soldiers of Victory tales from LEADING COMICS backing up the JLA's new stories; team-up stories in BRAVE & BOLD; Deadman in WORLD'S FINEST; etc.

Due to this mammoth increase in the National workload, a number of borderline titles have had to be pared from the schedule. These titles include WEIRD WORLDS, KORAK, PREZ, FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION, SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE, CHAMPION SPORTS and SECRET ORIGINS. The KORAK strips will appear in TARZAN, and the necessity of DARK MANSION, SINISTER HOUSE and SECRET ORIGINS was eliminated with the increase in mystery pages and reprints, respectively. In addition, G.I. COMBAT and STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES will be returning to bi-monthly status.

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY book will alternate between Julie Schwartz and Murray Boltinoff as editor, with one of the three characters taking the lead position with new material, and the other two backing up with reprint stories. Julie will handle Supergirl, Murray Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane, with Nelson Bridwell assisting on all three.

Whether this move will mean the eventual elimination of all 20¢ titles, as some have predicted, is not known. But it is felt, at National, that these books will meet with more success than before because of their much higher rate of profit to wholesalers, which naturally increases their willingness to display them.

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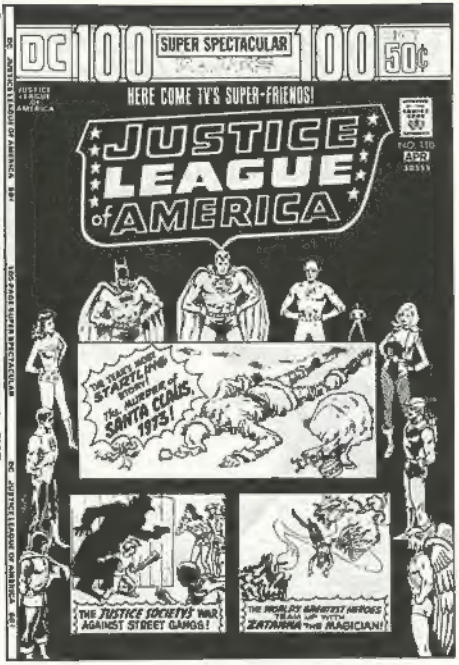
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Simultaneously, National's LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION series has proved successful enough to warrant the establishment of a new line of $1 books entitled FIRST EDITION LIMITED COLLECTOR'S GOLDEN MINT SERIES. This new line, aside from having the longest name in comics history, will feature exact and complete reprints of first issues and first appearances from the Golden Age of Comics. As you have probably seen by this time, the first FIRST EDITION $1 book is ACTION COMICS #1, and it features everything (including the ads!) that appeared in the comic originally.

Following ACTION #1 will be DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (first appearance of Batman), WHIZ COMICS #2 (#1) (first appearance of Captain Marvel), SENSATION COMICS #1 (first appearance of Wonder Woman), BATMAN #1 and SUPERMAN #1.

As far as the LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION $1 books go, there will be several more of these coming out in 1974, including BATMAN, THE WITCHING HOUR, and SHAZAM!

The BATMAN $1 book is already finished and planned for January release. The contents are: "The Case of the Joker's Crime Circus" drawn by Bob Kane; "The Case Batman Failed to Solve" illustrated by Jerry Robinson; "The Mayors of Yomville" featuring Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum with art by Dick Sprang; "Hate of the Hooded Hangman" drawn by Carmine Infantino; "Hot Time in Gotham Town Tonight" with artwork by Irv Novick; and "Ghosts of the Killer Skies" drawn by Neal Adams. Special features include "How to Draw the Batman" by Carmine Infantino, Joker and Penguin pin-ups by Infantino and Anderson, a double-page Batman pin-up, a back-cover diorama and a cover by Neal Adams.

●

Berni Wrightson will be leaving SWAMP THING for personal reasons. A replacement has yet to be chosen.

●

Tex Blaisdell, the current artist on the LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE newspaper strip, has returned to comic books after an absence of a few years to do some inking for National.

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Another newspaper strip artist, Mike Grell, whose work has appeared on the BRENDA STARR strip, has pencilled a new AQUAMAN story for ADVENTURE.

●

Speaking of ADVENTURE, the fourth SPECTRE story will be somewhat unusual in two aspects: First, it will be a booklengther; Second, it will be pencilled by Frank Thorne (who has only pencilled one other story in his life that he has not inked) and inked by Jim Aparo (who has never inked a story that he did not pencil).

●

Two new book-length mystery stories have been done for WEIRD WAR TALES and HOUSE OF MYSTERY by George Kashdan and Mike Fleisher, respectively.

●

The next few guest-stars in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD will be MR. MIRACLE, METAL MEN and AQUAMAN, each, of course, teaming up with BATMAN.

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National reports that their Comic Mobile, a van that travels around the country selling DC comics, is doing quite well. There have been numerous requests from around the country for franchises on the Comic Mobile, and Bruce Hamilton is currently testing different marketing techniques with the Comic Mobile in the West. (Bruce passed through Milwaukee recently with the van, and we got to see it first hand. It's real!)

●

Some more miscellaneous notes about the new reprint material for the back of the SUPER-SPECs: The editing of BRAVE & BOLD, WORLD'S FINEST, HOUSE OF MYSTERY and UNEXPECTED reprints will be Paul Levitz, with Allan Asherman editing TARZAN, YOUNG LOVE, YOUNG ROMANCE and the OUR ARMY AT WAR Specs' reprints. All other SPECs will be edited by Nelson Bridwell.

Special features include: Transcriptions from the old SUPERMAN radio show in WORLD'S FINEST; the return of FACT FILE; and three or four page tours of the HOUSE OF MYSTERY. Plus other surprises.

Marvel News

While no visible effect upon Marvel has been seen, it is probable that it will eventually cause a decrease in their current volumn of output. If any titles are cut, they will probably be the reprint titles.

●

One of the new Marvel black and whites mentioned last issue is an as of yet untitled book on the martial arts. This 75¢ magazine will feature some stories on Kung Fu characters, as well as articles and features on Kung Fu.

●

After DR. STRANGE moves over to his book (which, incidently picks up numbering from #184, the last issue of the old DR. STRANGE) his spot will be filled in MARVEL PREMIERE by IRON FIST by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane, a new Kung Fu character. IRON FIST will begin in PREMIERE #15.

●

CEATURES ON THE LOOSE #29 will be the last issue featuring THONGOR. The LIVING MUMMY (remember him from SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS #4?) will be filling that spot. The art on MUMMY will be by Val Mayerick, with the scripting being done by Tony Isabella (with Steve Gerber's plot on the first issue.)

●

Billy Graham has taken over the art chores on the BLACK PANTHER in JUNGLE ACTION. Ron Wilson, a new staffer whose work has previously appeared on Marvel's British weeklies, will be taking over the spot vacated by Billy on LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN.

●

Doug Moench has scripted a fill-in issue of GHOST RIDER (#5) from a Marv Wolfman plot. Doug has also taken over the black and white FRANKENSTEIN strip in MONSTERS UNLEASHED.

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MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #4 features the THING with CAPTAIN AMERICA and the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. The GUARDIANS, if you'll recall, had only one appearance in the pages of MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #18 back in 1968.

●

As of the third issue of TWO-IN-ONE, Sal Buscema takes over as artist.

●

Tom Sutton will be drawing MORBIUS in the pages of VAMPIRE TALES, taking over from Pablo Marcos.

●

Don Perlin has done a fill-in issue of WEREWOLF BY NIGHT.

●

DAREDEVIL is returning once more to a monthlyschedule starting with #109. Gene Colan has done a fill-in issue of DD for #110.

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A new character, the creation of Rich Buckler, loosely based on the cyborg concept, is currently in the works. This as of yet untitled character will be scripted by Doug Moench (from a plot by Doug and Rich), and drawn by Rich.

●

Dave Cockrum will be taking over the art chores on the AVENGERS. For the first few issues Dave will be doing the book over Sal Buscema break-downs.

● ●

COMING COMICS is a listing of upcoming releases from the major comic art publishers. The "on sale" dates are from the publishers' production schedules and serve as approximate indications of the date your local distributor may feel like putting the material on display. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). Description of all known contents, credits for the feature/s in this order: writer, artist, inker. (On sale date) (Price if other than 20¢. All issues designated "Super-Spectacular" are 50¢)

Marvel Coming Comics

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (173, March). The Cobalt Man returns, only to discover that he is dying of radiation! To show the world the evils of atomic radiation he decides to sacrifice himself! The first of two parts, scripted by Roy Thomas and Herb Trimpe. (11/20)

KID COLT OUTLAW (180, March). (11/20)

TOMB OF DRACULA (18, March). Jack Russel and his new found friend Topaz head for Transylvania in an attempt to discover the origins of the Werewolf, and you've got three guesses at who they meet upon their arrival! Right, the Prince of Darkness himself, DRACULA! To be concluded in WEREWOLF BY NIGHT 315. Script by Marv Wolfman, with art by Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. Cover by Kane and Palmer. (11/20)

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THE MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (30, March). A Dick Ayers drawn story from RAWHIDE KID #12, a Werner Roth story from MATT SLADE #5, "The Fox Strikes" from TWO-GUN KID #49 by Lee and Severin and a filler, "The Winner" from MATT SLADE #5 by Lee and Severin. Cover by Kirby, Ayers and Severin. (11/20)

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES (42, March). From TALES TO ASTONISH #87, the HULK in "The Humanoid and the Hero" (Stan Lee, John Buscema and Mike Esposito) and the SUB-MARINER in "Moment of Truth" (Stan Lee and Bill Everett). (11/20)

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (27, March). "From Out of the Black Pit Comes... Grogg!" by Lee, Kirby and Ayers from STRANGE TALES #83 and "Follow the Leader" by Lee, Kirby and Ayers from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #76. Cover by Kirby and Ayers. (11/20)

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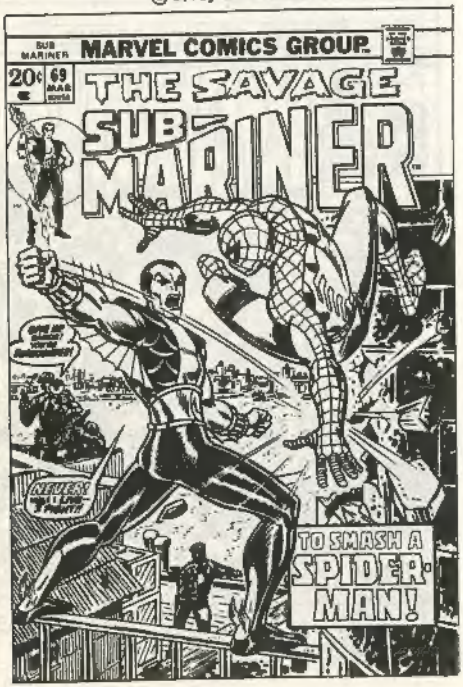

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DAREDEVIL (108, March). DD returns to New York to come to the aid of his old friend, Foggy Nelson, who was a victim of an assassination attempt in "Cry... Beetle!" A new mystery involving a gang called Black Spectre is introduced. Story by Steve Gerber, with art by Bob Brown and Paul Gulacy. (11/20)

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (21, March). "The Great Train Robbery" from KID COLT #103 by Lee and Keller, "The Search for Don Jose" from WESTERN KID #13 by John Romita, "Cry of the Coyote" from APACHE KID #16 with art by Werner Roth and a filler, "The Swindler" from KID COLT #103 by Lee and Jay Scott Pike. Cover by Romita. (11/20)

MARVEL SPECTACULAR (6, March). From THOR #135, "The Maddening Menace of the Super-Beast" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Vince Coletta, plus a chapter of TALES OF ASGARD, "Maelstrom" from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #121 by Lee, Kirby and Colletta. (11/20)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (130, March). Hammerhead is out... and he's after SPIDEY! And, to add to SPIDEY's problems is the Jackal! Also, watch for the knock-out surprise ending. Gerry Conway, Ross Andru and Frank Giacoia. (11/27)

CRYPT OF SHADOWS (9, March). (11/27)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (171, March). While the FALCON and the BLACK PANTHER finish up their adventure in Africa against Stoneface, CAPTAIN AMERICA is following up his one clue to Moonstone! Plot by Steve Englehart, scripted by Mike Friedrich, with art by Sal Buscema and Vince Colletta. (11/27)

BEWARE (7, March). (11/27)

THOR (221, March). The first of three parts guest-starring HERCULES in "Hercules Enraged." Gerry Conway, John Buscema and Mike Esposito. (11/27)

CHAMBER OF CHILLS (9, March). (11/27)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (17, March). From AVENGERS #23, "Once An Avenger" by Stan Lee, Don Heck and John Romita. (11/27)

THE SUB-MARINER (69, March). In this last issue by Steve Gerber, we see the tying up of many plot threads, as well as the final fate of the people of Zepherland. SUBBY battles Force, with the fate of Atlantis hanging in the balance in "Two Worlds And Dark Destiny." Art by George Tuska and Vince Colletta. Marv Wolfman takes over the scripting with the next issue. (11/27)

●

AMAZING ADVENTURES (23, March). In "The Legend Assassins" KILLRAVEN is taken to the White House, which has long since been taken over by a half-man, half-rat ex-CIA agent called Rattack. Meanwhile, the Pentagon is taken over by Mint Julep and her female troops. KILLRAVEN comes up against a master Overlord! Don McGregor, Herb Trimpe and Frank Chiarmonte. (12/4)

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THE AVENGERS (121, March). The Zodiac Gang is split by internal strife and the rebellious Zodiacs, along with the AVENGERS are trapped by Taurus. Scripted by Steve Englehart, John Buscema layouts, and finished art by Don Heck. (12/4)

CAPTAIN MARVEL (31, March). "The Beginning of the End" has MARVELL and the AVENGERS teamed up with Moondragon to fight Thanos. Written and drawn by Jim Starlin, inked by Dan Green and Al Milgrom. (12/4)

FRANKENSTEIN (9, March). The conclusion of the DRACULA - FRANKENSTEIN battle by Gary Friedrich, John Buscema, and John Verpoorten. (12/4)

MAN-THING (3, March). A new villain called Fool-Killer is introduced in "Day of the Killer, Night of the Fool." Fool - Killer is out to destroy MAN - THING and F. A. Chist. Steve Gerber, Val Mayerick, and Jack Abel. (12/4)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (2, March). WUNDAAR (introduced in FEAR #17) is being pursued by the Security Police of his home planet which never blew up. The THING and SUB-MARINER team-up to protect him in this story by Steve Gerber, Gil Kane and Joe Sinnott. (12/4)

MY LOVE (28, March). (12/4)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (14, March). The SON OF SATAN in "Ice and Hell Fire" in which Damon Hellstorm is called to St. Louis to exorcise some demons. New supporting characters and the lead-in to next issue are introduced. Story by Steve Gerber and Jim Mooney. (12/4)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (36, March). CONAN finds himself up against the awesome Stone God in this tale by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Ernie Chua. (12/4)

TALES OF THE ZOMBIE (4, March). The ZOMBIE in "The Law And Philip Blish" by Steve Gerber and

Pablo Marcus. Also, "Nightfilth Rising" by Doug Moench and Win Mortimer, "Drums of Doom" by Gerry Conway, Rich Buckler, Vic Martin, Win Mortimer and a cast of thousands, "Who Walks With A Zombie?" (reprint) by Stan Lee and Russ Heath, "Valley of the Dead" (reprint) by Fred Kida, and "Courtship by Voodoo" a one page feature by Tony Isabella and Ron Wilson. Text features this issue are "With Dawn Comes Death" by Chris Claremont and "Live And Let Die" by Don McGregor. (12/4) (75¢)

●

FANTASTIC FOUR (144, March). This issue features the third part of the current FF/Doctor Doom battle entitled "Attack" by Gerry Conway, with art by Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott. (12/11)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (19, March). KA-ZAR teams up with SPIDER-MAN this issue for "The Coming of Stegron the Dinosaur Man." Written by Len Wein, with art by Gil Kane and Frank Giacoia. (12/11)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (15, March). We finally learn the origin of the WEREWOLF in this issue's story, the conclusion of the DRACULA-WEREWOLF battle which began in DRACULA #18. Scripted by Marv Wolfman, art by Mike Ploog and Frank Chiarmonte. (12/11)

MARVEL PREMIERE (14, March) DOCTOR STRANGE and Baron Mordo chase the man from the future who is about to become God through time with the result of un-creating the universe! The ending of "Genesis-Siseneg" is guaranteed by co-creators Steve Englehart and Frank Brunner to be a shock. Inked by Dick Giordano. Next issue a new feature by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane called IRONFIST takes over this spot while DOC STRANGE moves to his own book. (12/11)

SGT. FURY (118, March). FURY and the rest of the HOWLERS go up against Rommel in "The War Machine" by Gerry Conway and Dick Ayers. (12/11)

RAWHIDE KID (119, March). (12/11)

JUNGLE ACTION (9, March). The BLACK PANTHER comes up against another of Killmonger's henchmen in this issue. This one goes by the name of Baron Macabre. Also in this issue is the beginning of a murder mystery with all the clues present as to whodunit. "But Now The Spears Are Broken" is by Don McGregor, Gil Kane and Klaus Jansen. (12/11)

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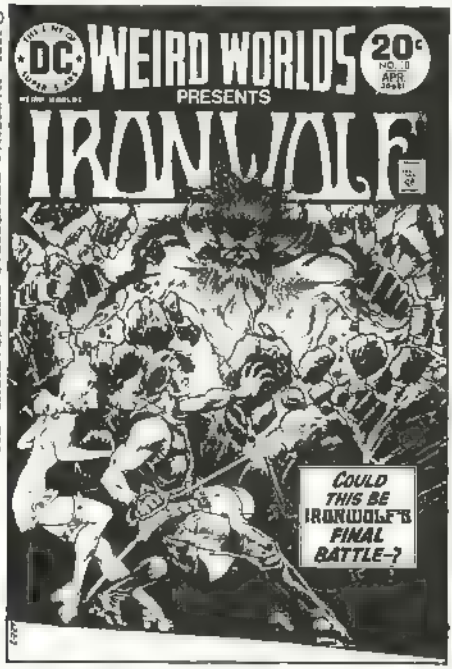
CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (28, March). The continuing saga of THONGOR in "Mountain Thunder" in which THONGOR meets his bride-to-be, Sumia. Scripted by Steve Gerber, art by Vicente Alcazar. (12/11)

LAST MINUTE NEWS: Due to a last minute change in the production schedule, the following DC Comics, listed in the pages following, will not appear: WEIRD WORLDS No. 10, SECRET ORIGINS No. 7 and LOIS LANE No. 137. It is probable that the material intended for these books will be included in future Super-Spectaculars.

National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (266, March). "The Evacuees" features George Evans' first work on SGT. ROCK. This story, scripted by Bob Kanigher, has ROCK engaged in an aerial dog-fight. Also in this issue is another U.S.S. STEVENS by Sam Glanzman. (12/4)



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GHOSTS (24, March). In this issue: "Doom-Hag of Achill Island" by E. R. Cruz, "The Phantom Spy" by Lee Elias, "You Too Will Die" by Alfredo Alcala, and "Dark Was the Pit" by Don Perlin. (12/4)

WEIRD WORLDS (10, March-April). The further adventures of IRONWOLF in "Homeworld" by Howie Chaykin (plot and art) and Denny O'Neil (script). Also, another installment of THE HOUSE OF IRONWOLF by John Warner and Howie Chaykin, with art by Vicente Alcazar. This is the last issue of WW. (12/6)

YOUNG ROMANCE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (198, March-April). New material edited by Joe Simon along with reprints. (12/4)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA SUPER-SPECTACULAR (110, March-April). New material this issue is "The Man Who Murdered Santa Claus," a story by Len Wein, Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano that marks the return of the black GREEN LANTERN, John Stewart. The use of Stewart in this story was suggested to Len by fan Duffy Vohland. Reprints are "Z... As in Zatanna and Zero Hour," a JLA tale from JLA #50 by Gardner Fox and Mike Sekowsky, and, from ALL STAR COMICS #40, the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA in "The Plight of a Nation," a very nice tale concerning juvenile delinquency by John Broome, with art by Carmine Infantino and Alex Toth. (12/6)

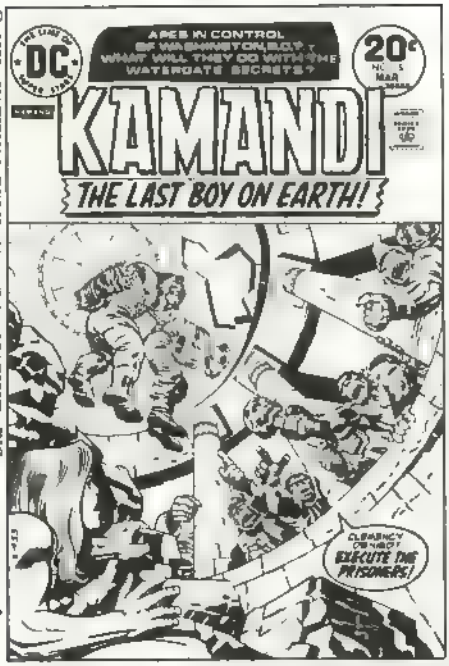
SWAMP THING (9, March-April). "The Stalker From Beyond" is a science fiction-y type tale of an alien on earth by Len Wein, with art by Berni Wrightson, and an assist from Jeff Jones. (12/6)

SECRET ORIGINS (7, March-April). From MORE FUN COMICS #73 we get the origin of AQUAMAN by Mort Weisinger and Paul Norris. Also, the origin of ROBIN from DETECTIVE #33. (12/6)

KAMANDI (15, March). This month's story involves the Watergate Tapes. A group of gorillas in Washington find the tapes and form a religious cult around them. They then capture Tuftan and Dr. Canus to use as sacrifices to the tapes! Story and art by Jack Kirby, inked by Mike Royer. (12/11)

WEIRD WESTERN TALES (22, March-April). Mike Fleisher takes over the scripting on JONAH HEX this issue in "Showdown at Hard Times," a story that introduces a new direction for HEX. Art by Tony DiZuniga. Cover by Luis Dominguez. (12/11)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (223, March). In this issue: "Demon From the Deep" by Len Wein and E. R. Cruz, "Message From Beyond" by Jack Oleck and Ralph Reese, and "Upon Reflection" by Jack Oleck and Ramona Fradon (one of her first art jobs in several years). (12/11)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THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!
EXECUTE THE PRISONERS!

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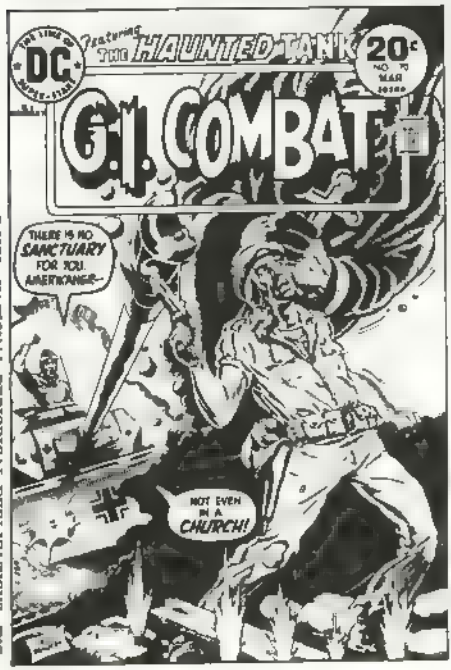
LOIS LANE (137, March-April). LOIS investigates "The Stolen Subway" in this first story by Cary Bates, John Rosenberger and Vince Colletta. "This Building is Condemned" is the second story this issue by John David Warner, Rosenberger and Colletta. (12/13)

THE UNEXPECTED (156, March). In this issue: "A Lunatic is Loose Among Us" by Carl Wessler and Dival, "Death is a Dummy in Disguise" by Wessler and Alfredo Alcala, "Monstrosity" by Wessler and Gerry Talaoc, and "Un-Lucky Horseshoe" by Jerry Grandenetti. (12/13)

SUPERMAN (273, March). At last, the follow-up to the last panel of "Wild Weekend in Washington." This tale is called "The Wizard With the Golden Eye" and its by Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. "Blind Date" is this issue's PRIVATE LIFE OF CLARK KENT by Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Dick Giordano. Cover by Cardy. (12/13)

G.I. COMBAT (170, March). THE HAUNTED TANK in "Chain of Vengeance," scripted by Archie Goodwin and drawn by Sam Glanzman. There is a WARRIOR page on "Tecumseh" by Sam Glanzman, and "Every Battle You Die a Little" by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling. Cover by Ken Barr. (12/13)



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PLOP! (4, March-April). This is the Special Monster Convention Issue, with the introduction by Sergio Aragones and Steve Skeates, "The Last Laugh" by Skeates and Frank Robbins, 'A Perfectly Crazy Crime" by Aragones and Skeates, "Now and Then' by Skeates and Nick Cardy, and a whole batch of Monster-Plops, Prison-Plops, Historical-Plops, Gourmet-Plops, and Perscription-Plops. Also, by cover artist Basil Wolverton is "Doc Rock Block." (12/18)

THE WITCHING HOUR (40, March). In this issue: An introductory page by E. R. Cruz, "The Tunnel of Sorrow" by Carl Wessler and Ernie Chua, "The Devil Will Get You" by George Kashdan and Bernard Bailey, "The Mad Woman of Marshwood Lane" by Alex Nino and the "Witch-ful Thinking" text page. (12/18)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (222, March-April). Superman, Batman and the Super-Sons in "Evil in Paradise' by Bob Haney, Dick Dillin and Vince Colletta. (12/18)

SHAZAM! (11, March). "The World's Mightiest Desert" features CAPTAIN MARVEL up against... a blob of Jello! Scripted by E. Nelson Bridwell, with art by Bob Oksner and Vince Colletta. The first of the new rotating MARVEL FAMILY stories, "The Year Without Christmas" is by Elliot S! Maggin and Kurt Schaffenberger. And, "The Incredible Capeman' features a rather unorthodox 'hero' who teams up with CAPTAIN MARVEL in this story by Maggin and Schaffenberger. Cover by Oksner. (12/20)

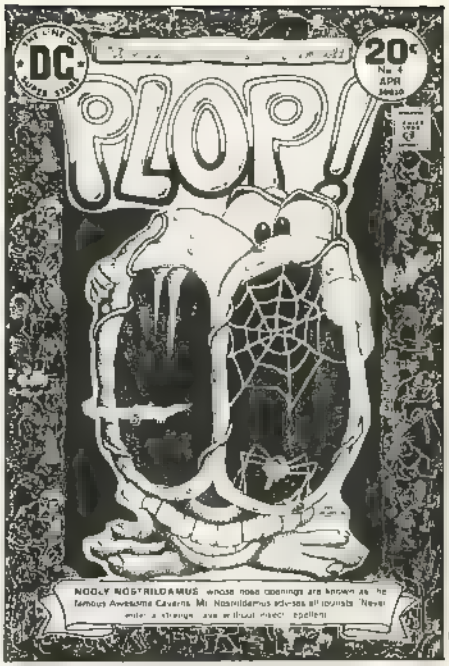
SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE (17, March-April). In this issue: ' Death's Last Rattle" by George Kashdan and Ramona Fradon, "Strange Neighbor" by Alan Weiss, "The Corpse Comes on Time," a one-pager drawn by Win Mortimer, and a JOHNNY PERIL story called ' Death Has Five Guesses" drawn by Alex Toth and Sy Barry. Cover by Cardy. (12/20)

STRANGE SPORTS STORIES (4, March-April). "Challenge of the Faceless Five" is a basketball story by Cary Bates and John Rosenberger, and 'Man With the Golden Gloves" is a boxing story by Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick, and Dick Giordano. Cover by Cardy. (12/20)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (179, March). "A Town Called Hate" involves a race riot among United States troops. This UNKNOWN SOLDIER story is by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling. Sam Glanzman contributes a WARRIOR page on Horatio Nelson, and Gerry Boudreau and Ric Estrada gives us "This Much Madness is Too Much Sorrow." Cover by Kubert. (12/20)

●

WEIRD WAR TALES (23, March). In this issue: "The Bird of Death' by John Albano and Alfredo Alacala, a never before published "Day After Doomsday" left over from the days when Dick Giordano was editing, by Len Wein and Rich Buckler, and ' Corporal Kelly's Private War" by George Kashdan and Alex Nino. Cover by Dominguez. (12/26)



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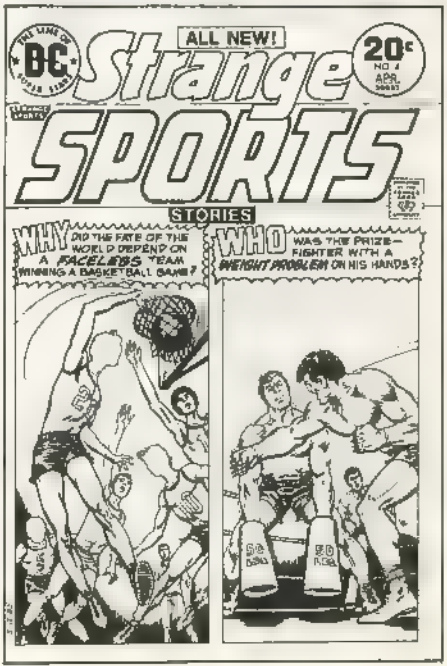
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WHO WAS THE PRIZE-FIGHTER WITH A WEIGHT PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS?

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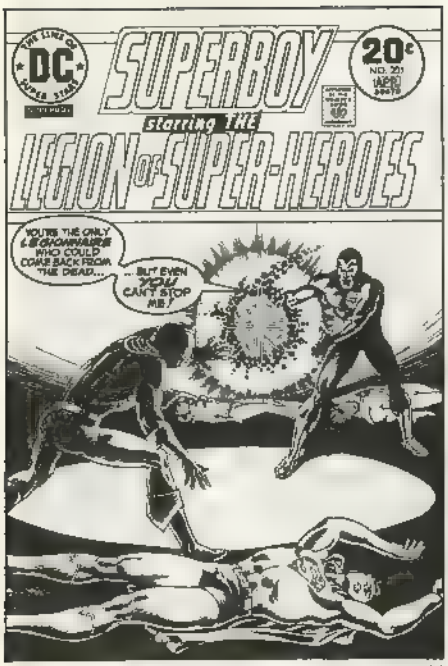

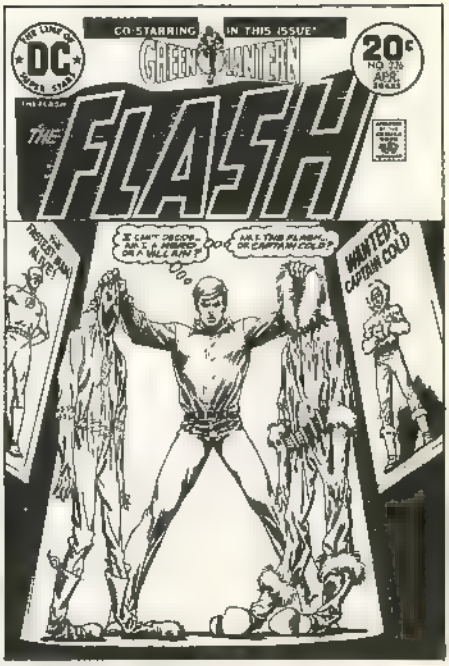

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HOUSE OF SECRETS (117, March). In this issue: "Don't Cry for Uncle Malcolm" by Gerry Bourdreau and Alex Nino and "Revenge for the Deadly Dummy" by Steve Skeates and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Dominguez. (12/26)

SUPERBOY (201, March-April). The LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES in two tales, "The Betrayor from Beyond' and "The Silent Death," both by Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum. (12/26)

THE FLASH (226, March). The Heat Wave and Captain Cold return to menace THE FLASH in "The Hot-Cold War in Central City" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano. GREEN LANTERN in "The Powerless Power Ring" by Denny O'Neil, with art by Neal Adams and Dick Giordano. Cover by Cardy. (12/26)

●

TARZAN (229, March). More adventures of the incredible Apeman with story and art by Joe Kubert. (12/28)

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR (255, March-April). BATMAN comes up against a very unusual foe this issue in "Moon of the Wolf" by Len Wein, Neal Adams and Dick Giordano. Reprints this issue are: "The Outsider Strikes Again" with art by Bob Kane and Joe Giella; "The First Batman," a story that tells of a "Batman" that existed before the one we know of today; ALFRED in "The Duped Domestics," the first story in which Alfred impersonates the BATMAN, drawn by Jerry Robinson; BATGIRL in "The True-False Face of Batman"; and ROBIN comes up against a former enemy of the old BOY COMMANDOS in "Crazy Quilt Comes Back." (12/28)

ADVENTURE COMICS (432, March-April). An important female character is introduced in this issue's "Anguish of The Spectre" by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley and Jim Aparo. "Night of the Slaves" is the first part of a two part CAPTAIN FEAR story by Steve Skeates and Alex Nino. Cover by Aparo. (12/28)

ACTION COMICS (433, March). SUPERMAN in "The Man Who Was Buried on Page 64" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan, and Murphy Anderson. THE ATOM in ' The Affair of the Bouncing Chair" by Elliot Maggin, with art by Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. Cover by Cardy. (12/28)

THE SANDMAN (1, Winter). The famous team of Joe Simon and Jack Kirby get together again in this story entitled "The Dreams of The Sandman." This SANDMAN is different from the old Simon and Kirby version as well as from the original SANDMAN. Inks by Royer. Cover by Kirby and Royer. (12/28)

●

NOTE: Because of our great volume of news this issue, our Fanzine Review column was squeezed out. It will be back next issue. We apapologize to Liam O'Connor and associates.

Et Al

(Continued on page 23)

Whitman Publishing has announced the re-release of their RIG LITTLE BOOK series. 12 titles will be released; eight are re-released new versions of titles released in 1966-67: MICKEY MOUSE (Adventure in Outer Space), POPEYE (Ghost Ship to Treasure Island), GOOFY (Giant Trouble), TOM & JERRY (Meet Mr. Fingers), WOODY WOODPECKER (The Meteor Menace), LASSIE (Adventure in Alaska), DONALD DUCK (The Fabulous Diamond Fountain), BUGS BUNNY (Double Trouble on Diamond Island); the other four are apparently new with a revival of "flip art" featured in so many BLB's in the thirties and forties: POPEYE (and Queen Olive Oyl), DONALD DUCK (Volcano Valley), BUGS BUNNY (Accidental Adventure), and ROAD RUNNER (The Super Beep-Catcher). Flip art, for those who don't know is a crude form of animation achieved by flipping small drawings in the upper right hand corners of odd numbered pages. The books measure 3 5/8" x 4 3/4", contain 250 pages and will sell for 39¢ each.

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Warren

A new collection of SPIRIT stories is the newest magazine from Warren Publishing, their first since VAMPIRELLA #1 about four years ago. THE SPIRIT Magazine will contain vintage SPIRIT stories by Will Eisner, who is, incidentally, the editor of this new book.

Each issue of this bi-monthly title will contain eight SPIRIT stories, with at least one in full color, color being handled by Richard Corben. The first issue, on sale January 29, will feature "Raven's Point," "Jailbreak," "Li'l Adam," "Oriols A. C.," "Li'l Henry Murderer," "The Time Trip," 'Killer Joe Daws," and "El Spirito" (in full color), all written and drawn by Will Eisner.

With the publication of THE SPIRIT Magazine, all other SPIRIT reprints (i.e., the Krupp undergrounds and Dave Gibson's SPIRIT sections) go off the market. Warren has exclusive rights to the publication of THE SPIRIT.

Don't worry if you haven't gotten the undergrounds or sections yet, as they will still be on sale through the Captain Company Warren mail-order service.

●

VAMPIRELLA #31 will feature "Luana" by Doug Moench and Esteban Maroto. "Luana" is an adaption of a new movie and Ballantine book. The story is set in Africa where a search party is looking for a scientist, his wife and daughter who have been missing for 15 years. And the success of the mission all depends on the help of a mysterious wild girl named Luana. The cover of this issue is by Frank Frazetta, a pen and ink adaption by Neal Adams of which appears in this issue.

●

CREEPY #61 features six different stories by six different writers and artists all bassed on the Larry Todd/Vaughn Bode' cover.

●

Reed Crandall is presently work on a book-length adaptation of a famous science-fiction classic.

A sequel to "Marvin -- The Dead Thing" is planned, and Esteban Maroto is to draw it.

●

An upcoming issue of EERIE will feature a book-length story with The Mummy, The Were-Mummy, Dracula, Hunter and Schreck all featured in individual but interlocking stories by Steve Skeates.

●

A new series entitled "Child" is to be illustrated by Martin Salvador, .

●

CREEPY #59 - In this issue: "Destiny's Witch" by John Jacobson and Ramon Torrents; "A Dark and Violent Place" by Don McGregor and Adolfo Abellan, "Spare That Tree" by Jack Butterworth and Martin Salvador; "Curiosity Killed the Cat" by Doug Moench and Paul Neary; "Not a Creature Was Stirring" by Don McGregor and Tom Sutton; and this issue's eight page color section, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by Bill DuBay and Rich Corben. Cover by Sanjulian. (12/13)

EERIE #54 - In this issue: THE MUMMY in "Stranger in a Village of the Insane ' by Steve Skeates and Jamie Bocal; the last story in the WEREWOLF series entitled 'To Cure This Curse" by Steve Skeates and Martin Salvador; THE HUNTER in "Code Three" by Margopolis and Paul Neary; SCHRECK in "No Flys on Schreck" by Doug Moench and Vicente Alcazar; the first in a new series called Dr. Archaeus called "The Evil That Men Do" by Gerry Boudreau and Munes; and a special eight page preview of the new SPIRIT book by Will Eisner with full color by Corben. Cover by Sanjulian. (12/18)

VAMPIRELLA #31 - In this issue: VAMPIRELLA in 'Betrothed of the Sun-God" by Haxman Loew and Jose Gonzalez; "Woodlik Inheritance" with art and story by Rich Corben; "Phobia" by Jose Bea; the second installment of PANTHA entitled "Homecoming' by Steve Skeates and Auraleon. The special 13 page feature this issue is "Luana," a movie adaptation by Doug Moench and Esteban Maroto. This issue marks the return of Frank Frazetta as a Warren cover artist. (12/18)

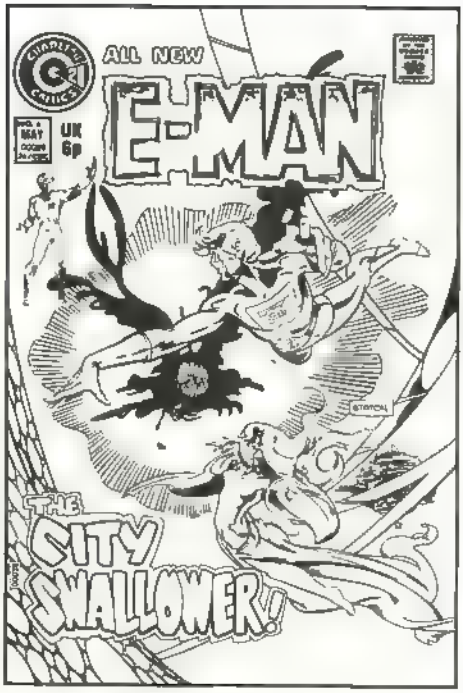
FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #105. (12/18)

Charlton News

Due to the series of strikes by several of the paper mills and railroads in Canada, the US has been hit by a severe paper shortage. Prices have risen drastically for paper in recent months and all the comic companies have been affected by this shortage. Charlton Comics, however, seems to be the hardest hit in the industry.

Charlton, who print their own books, has halted production for all of their titles for the next two months or so, and no new issues will be produced or published in that time. The issues currently on the stands will be left on sale for a longer period than usual.

Charlton editor Nicola Cuti informs us that this suspension of publication is only a temporary measure and production WILL resume as soon as paper is available.



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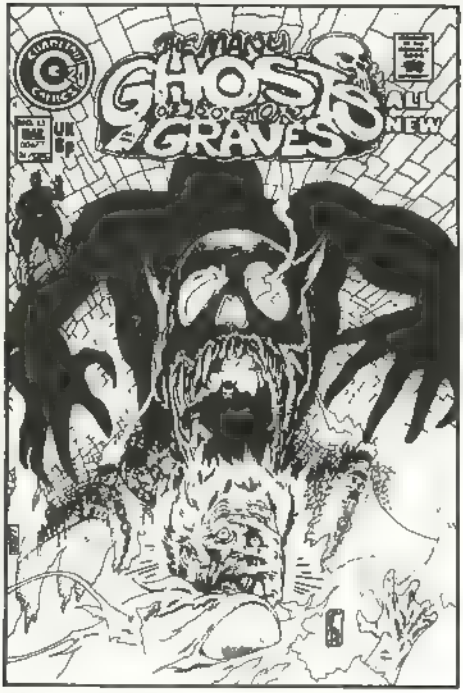

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Charlton Coming Comics

Coming out eventually will be: E-MAN #4 - "The City Swallower" by Joe Staton and Nicola Cuti and KILLJOY by Steve Ditko.

MIDNIGHT TALES #8 - Including: "Amnesia" by Wayne Howard and Nicola Cuti; "The Kilgore Monster" by Tom Sutton and Cuti; "No Witnesses" by Joe Staton and Cuti; and an untitled story written and drawn by Wayne Howard.

THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES #45 - Included are: "The Sacred Cat of Set"with art by Charles Nicholas and Wayne Howard and script by Joe Gill; "The Treasure Seekers" by longtime fan artist Don Newton and Joe Gill; and "The Arena of Lost Souls" by artist Mike Vosburg and writer Mike Pellowski. Cover by Tom Sutton.

Red Circle News

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Tentative plans for the new mystery title from Red Circle have progressed a bit. Plans currently call for the book to alternate with CHILLING ADVENTURES IN SORCERY, as either a type of "Red Circle Presents..." title, or two seperate books coming out in alternate months.

The basic premise for the as of yet untitled book is to have the stories revolving around a large detective agency. This will allow for the use of regular, as well as frequent new characters. Writers and artists have yet to be chosen, although editor Gray Morrow will definitely be doing some work on both ends.

●

CHILLING ADVENTURES IN SORCERY (5, February). Included in this issue are: "The Two Thieves of Baghdad," a six page mythological story with art by Vicente Alcazar; "Esme," an eight page psychological story of terror set in modern times by Vicente Alcazar; "Barometer Falling," a five page Gray Morrow sword & sorcery story; and "The Choker is Wild," another six-pager, set in the middle ages by Alcazar. Cover by Morrow. (Also, the editors are looking for letters of comment for a letter page planned for #6.)

A Letter from the Editors

Into every new endeavor, a little rain must fall. Only in our case, it's usually a hurricane.

When Paul Levitz told us he wanted to give up TCR and hand the reigns to us, we had visions of it being sometime off into the far distant future. Surprise would be the best way to describe our learning that we would publish #101 -- and we were caught with our guard down. The work involved -- transcribing the subscription list to our addressograph labeling method, assembling our TCR from scratch, and assembling the news gathered by Paul Kupperberg -- took much longer than we thought. Thus the lateness of #101.

And so, this issue is late also. It was inevitable for two reasons: one, Paul Kupperberg regretfully tendered his resignation with this issue's news -- which required a bit of rewrite; and two, we found ourselves graced with a lot more news this issue than last, which required more set up time.

For this reason, it is probable that some (if not all) of the Marvels for next month have appeared in some places. It is our intention to list the next six weeks' production schedule in #103 to prevent this happening again... but keep in mind that some areas actually DO follow those schedules, and they might not be out of date everywhere.

Our target date for release was/is the 15th of each month. Whether we hit it or not will depend upon the success of Jerry's junket to New York in a few weeks. It is our hope that we will. Time will tell.

By the by, we never promised you a rose garden. Or color covers every issue. To do that would only delay the issue even more, and would, in the long run, increase subscription costs. We MAY use color for special occasions, but not every issue.

Jerry and Mike

Undergrounds

"Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." -- The Underground Comix Industry, 1973.

Many of the comix I reported in previous issues of TCR as having come out, still haven't, or were greatly delayed. The reason was not anyone's desire to mislead, merely the monkeywrench of '73's Supreme Court decision, allowing local communities to set their own standards on "obscenity," which waylaid many publishers' plans.

The decision put a scare into some local distributors and sellers, causing some to order no new books as they tried to dispose of those they already had. In the Bay area, some publishers laid off all but one warehouse employee last summer as new orders declined from an avalanche to a trickle. Ron Turner, publisher of Last Gasp, expected resumption of college in September to erase some of the panic and create a new demand for adult comix. Others were not so confident.

"We'll just have to go slow, and wait and see," said Bob Rita of the Print Mint. His firm,which normally releases four titles at a time, put out only one title (OCCULT LAFF PARADE) all summer, waiting until September to release the next three (MANHUNT, SAN FRANCISCO #4, and SHOW AND TELL by Justin Green).

Turner talked of halving the normal print run (and artists' initial royalty) from 20,000 copies to a 10,000 copy basis for some titles. Rita felt that wasn't economically feasible.

Publishers talked of suspending their touchier, more sexually explicit titles for the duration. Krupp of Milwaukee, as already reported in The Menomonee Falls GAZETTE some weeks back, said it was suspending BIZARRE SEX at least until its own local standards were determined (#3 will be the last for awhile) but going ahead with its more-or-less straight books like HIGH ADVENTURE and Will Eisner's SPIRIT #2.

But the worst pinch may come to the artists, Clay Geerdes suggested in a Bay Area underground newspaper article. He felt artists may find months of their life in preparing a book to be wasted if they delivered it and found no publisher willing to touch it.

Nevertheless, some new comix have been released and many more are planned. Those which have surfaced most recently include:

From Krupp (PO Box 5699, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211): HIGH ADVENTURE, DEATH RATTLE #3, TALES FROM THE FRIDGE and SPIRIT #2.

Print Mint (830 Folger Ave., Berkeley, CA 94701): The aforementioned OCCULT LAFF PARADE (Kinney, K. Deitch, Todd and others); MANHUNT (dating 'n mating explored by men and women artists including Lee Marrs, Aline Kominsky, and many of the ex-air pirates); SAN FRANCISCO COMIC #4 (more air pirates plus Crumb, Spain, Brand, Osborne, Chesney, etc.); and SHOW AND TELL (growing up religious and neurotic by Justin Green, creator of BINKY BROWN).

From Apex Novelties (Box 40430, San Francisco CA 94140): BLACK AND WHITE COMICS, the all-new, all R. Crumb book.

Last Gasp (Box 212, Berkeley, CA 94701): HAROLD HEDD #2 (Harold flying grass in from Mexico, told in Canadian Rand Holmes' best Wood style); LITTLE GREEN DINOSAUR #2 (Johnny Chambers with assists by Bob Inwood and George Metzger); BAKERSFIELD KOUNTRY KOMICS (the "country"-style capitol of California explored by Welz and Sutherland); and TALES OF THE LEATHER NUN #1 (more than a year in the making, by Dave "Mother's Oat's" Sheridan, Spain, Crumb and others).

The above are all 50¢ each. And from Crumb's own Golden Gate Comics Co, (429 Brazil Ave.) ARTISTIC COMICS #1, a 48 page, 75 cent sketchbook of Crumb characters past and present.

Publisher Turner, a native of Bakersfield (as were Welz and Sutherland) called one story an attempt to deal with the social-political climate of Bakersfield as few city-named comics have done. "We thought we'd hold a barbecue and farewell party in Bakersfield before the book came out, because after it's published we'll never dare show our faces there again," he said.

Last Gasp also plans two book-length comics based on science fiction stories, to be drawn by Richard Corben: illustrating Harlan Ellison's A BOY AND HIS DOG and Philip Jose Farmer's A FEAST UNKNOWN, for release as soon as the authors can proofread and Corben can finish them up. A writing contest (the winner's story to be drawn by Corben), a se-

cond GRIM WIT (also by Corben), and SKULL #7 are also in the works.

Vaugh Bode's next book, SCHIZOPHRENIA, a forthcoming Last Gasp release, will be a split book: one half with Cheech Wizard in one of his most erotic adventures, the other half autobiographical with a few surprises revealed by Bode that may prove controversial. (Bode reveals he may be a transvestite at heart, according to Turner.)

Yes, Virginia, there will be another Freak Bros. book, again from Rip-Off Press (Box 14158, San Francisco. CA 94114) as creator Gilbert Shelton labors to finish it by Christmas. Some one page stories are being farmed out to underground newspapers (including the San Francisco PHOENIX and the Berkeley BARB in the Bay area) and at least one long new story will be done on "The Freak Brothers Retire to the Country."

Meanwhile, there is a new pink-paper edition of FREAK BROS. #2, brought to you, as Shelton aciduously observes, by "the great newsprint shortage of 1973" (the quotation marks are his). Rip-Off this fall will release JESUS COMIX #3 by Foolbert Sturgeon (Jesus enters the academic world) and WONDER WART HOG #1 (if the paper supply holds out).

(I erred in saying The Hog of Steel's adventures would be collected into two large paperbacks; they'll be out in five popularly priced (50¢) comic books over the next year or so.)

For further developments, you might write the publishers at the addresses indicated, or inquire at the place I get my comix, Bob Sidebottom's Comic Collector Shop, 73 E. San Fernando, San Jose, CA 95113. He'll be happy to send you an up-to-date catalogue of over 150 comix in print plus many out of print, and fanzines, too. Enclose a SASE for fastest results. (End of free plug.)

Bill Loudin

Et Al

NATIONAL LAMPOON was the target of litagation by Volkswagen for the page in THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HUMOR which contained a pseudo-Volkswagen ad which pictured a floating Volkswagen and the caption "If Teddy Kennedy had been driving a Volkswagen, he'd be President today," referring to the Mary Joe Kopeckne incident. The suit was settled out of court, with NATLAMP agreeing to withdraw the ENCYCLOPEDIA from newsstands by November 15 (almost a week after the normal recall date, strangely -- after most of the print run had been sold) and publish an apology in their December or January issue.

Mark Evanier tells us that Harry Foster Welch, touted as the "voice of Popeye" when he died, actually only did the voices for the phonograph records done by Golden Records and others. Mrs. Welch appears to have said elsewhere that Welch was only a personal appearance Popeye.

PHASE is publishing a new book entitled HOT STUF. It will feature color covers by Rich Corben and Ken Barr and will feature the material slated for FANTAGOR #5 (2 stories by Corben and the cover), plus stories by Archie Goodwin, Ken Barr, Doug Moench, Rich Buckler and Bill Maher. It will be 60 pages, all stories, and is slated for February of '74. Price is $2.50 and should be ordered from: Sal Quartuccio, 770 East 45 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203.

An item in BOX OFFICE (October 8, 1973) has the following under the heading films soon to be produced:"From General Film Corporation: FRIDAY FOSTER from Don Gottlieb and Arthur Marks. Marks directing. Based upon the popular comic strip syndicated to 100 papers. Screenplay by Orville Hampton. It is a black-themed film based upon the adventurous lady photographer whose job gets her into political intrigue. GFC is conducting a nation-wide search to find the title-figure in cities where it will be location filmed: Los Angeles, Washington D. C., and New York." (Speaking of FRIDAY FOSTER, it seems that the syndicate may have steered us wrong on Bill Graham taking over the strip. We may be wrong but it looks a little more like Creig Flessel, late of DAVID CRANE and PREZ, than Graham.)

Doug Wildey has decided to terminate his syndicated daily and Sunday strip, AMBLER. Unhappiness with the way in which things were working out was given as the reason. The strip was in around 100 papers.

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